



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 RICHLAND OFFICE
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352

January 26, 2004

Jeff Snook
Manager WAG 7
U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

Re: Commencement of Waste Retrieval at the Glovebox Excavator Method (GEM) Project -
(EM-ER-04-004)

Dear Mr. Snook:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agrees that you have met the requirement to commence operations as outlined in the April 2002 Agreement to Resolve Disputes. Therefore, EPA authorizes the Department of Energy to release the \$2 million held in Reserve.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (509)376-9529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ceto".

Nicholas Ceto, Program Manager
INEEL Project

cc: Daryl Koch, IDEQ